

ECONOMIC COUNCIL LETTER

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The Anti-Race Bias Bills

BECAUSE bills more or less similar to the New York Anti-Discrimination Bill will be pressed in most States and in Congress, and because it is so controversial, we devote this Letter to this pending New York measure.

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In 1935, the Workers Library Publishers (fifty communistic bookshops operated in forty American cities) published a 48-page pamphlet entitled, "The Negroes in a Soviet America," by James W. Ford and James S. Allen. Ford, a prominent Harlem leader, was several times Communist candidate for Vice-President. Regardless of how many Communist organizations are said to have been "abolished"—regardless of how many official denials or evasions may come from Communist sources, this pamphlet sets forth clear Communist doctrine.

It starts out by announcing "a great crisis." "Masses of people live on the brink of starvation. Discontent and unrest are more widespread than ever before." Then the authors ask, "What is the relation of the Negroes in the United States to this rapidly changing world?" They say, "There is only one real, effective way out for the masses. . . . This way leads to a Soviet America."

Developing their theme rapidly, they advocate that the Negroes revolt against the whites and form a Soviet Republic in the Southern States. They say, "The masses of exploited must therefore organize in order to make use of their right to revolution. . . . The Negro people can find inspiration in the revolutionary attempts of Gabriel, Denmark Vesey, Nat Turner . . ."

Albert Bushnell Hart's "History of the American Nation," Vol. XVI, says two of these three were leaders of bloody revolts in which white men, women and children were mercilessly slaughtered.

So, in 1935 the Communist Party of the U.S.A. was inciting the Negroes to revolution as bloody as any Russia ever saw.

Of course the authors of "The Negroes in a

Soviet America" did not expect to attain this bloody revolution immediately. So they set forth certain "minimum desires of the Negro masses," and these they define as:

1. A decent and secure livelihood;
2. The rights of human beings;
3. An equal, honorable and respected status in all public and social life."

Since the Communists throughout their history have made full use of the tactic of fomenting discord and ill-feeling, racial and religious, it is fair to believe the proposed "Law Against Discrimination," commonly known as the Anti-Race Bias Bill, had its inspiration in Communist policy. By this law it is proposed in New York that public and social equality be assured the Negroes by statute.

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The "Law Against Discrimination" was drafted by a commission appointed by the Governor and the Legislature. Hearings were held in November and December in several cities, including New York. On the next to the last day of the hearings, the President of the National Economic Council appeared in opposition. The *New York Times*, in its account of that hearing, stated he was the 69th witness on the bill, and the first one to appear against it. The commission asserted business organizations had been notified of the hearings, but none appeared against the bill. The fact most business men are occupied in the phenomenally successful effort of private enterprise to produce war and other material for our fighting forces, may perhaps explain why the bill escaped their notice.

The New York bill received momentum because the Governor and certain leaders of the Legislature felt constrained to vie with one another in the effort to sponsor the bill and gain the credit for passing it.

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The bill sets up a commission of five men at \$10,000 a year; and it has all the usual provisions for attorneys, clerks, "and other employees

and agents as it may deem necessary." This commission will have power, under penalty of fine and imprisonment, to compel employers to accept as employees persons of any "race, creed, color or national origin"; and to compel employees to accept as fellow-employees persons of the same types. It allows the commission to issue orders commanding an employee or a fellow-employee to be accepted, not on a preponderance of the evidence, but on "sufficient evidence on the record considered as a whole"—whatever that may mean. This opens the door to injustices like those under the one-sided National Labor Relations Act.

Mr. Gareth Garrett, in "The Revolution Was," has pointed out that the various New Deal measures of recent years, viewed from the standpoint of American and general human experience, are in their totality completely cockeyed; but if viewed from the standpoint of revolution they form a perfect pattern.

This bill looks toward revolution in the State of New York. Social race equality is a cardinal point in Communist doctrine. The passage of such an act at any time would be a greater trouble breeder than the 18th Amendment. But to pass it now, when national unity is vital, when employers and employees alike should have their attention undiverted by friction, is a move which the American people from coast to coast will do well to note and ponder—and wherever they can to prevent.

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The hatching of this idea, as of so many others, undoubtedly took place among alien-minded elements in New York City. If any people in the country are not already warned against these mischievous or misguided New Yorkers, they should be warned now. Not by any means are these activities confined to aliens, however. They have been taken up as a cult or fad by some of our "best people." In many social, professional, and even business circles, more thought seems to be given to appeasing Communism than to the support of the American nation itself.

New York and Washington are close together in this apparent conspiracy to sell the United States out. There have been many disquieting incidents. Our readers will recall the mysterious efforts months ago to destroy the Communist records of our Military and Naval Intelligence. Only a few days ago it was announced the War Department had rescinded restrictions against the commissioning of Communists as officers in the armed services—this when our men are dying by the thousands and tens of thousands, supposedly for the cause of freedom.

In the *New York Herald Tribune* of Feb. 22, 1945, we found no reference in editorial or news

columns to the fact it was the birthday of George Washington. We did find a column article with the headline, "3,000 in Tribute to Red Army at Carnegie Hall." We found an article by Maurice Hindus with the headline, "Reds' Prime Goal Called Death of Fascism in All Disguises"—and we recall that *fascist*, in this country, means anybody opposed to Communism.

On the very day of the hearing on the "Law Against Discrimination" at Albany, where leftist orators and others implied that Negroes in the United States have no chance, a New York paper published a column article stating that Gaius C. Bolin, a Negro lawyer 80 years of age, had the previous day been elected President of the Dutchess County Bar Association. Almost the same day Smith College announced the appointment of a Negro to its faculty. We attended some years ago one of the sessions of a three-day meeting at Lake Placid, New York, of Negroes who came from all sections of the country to pay tribute to John Brown on the anniversary of his birth; and the attendants included scores of lawyers, doctors, business men and other Negroes, all of whom, with credit to themselves, had climbed well up the ladder of success.

We are concerned for the condition of the Negroes and of any group in this country that is discriminated against. Undoubtedly there are cases of discrimination. But the way to aid them is not by statutory compulsion either by legislature or by Congress. Fines and imprisonments under this law will anger the vast majority of Americans, and will stir up serious trouble for the very people the law is intended to benefit.

The problem of how these people can be better assimilated could be aided if a State Legislature by Joint Resolution authorized the mayor of any city, in his discretion, to appoint a small committee of discreet, tactful, able and high-minded citizens whose business it would be, by private conference behind the scenes, to smooth out some of the difficulties involved. Such a proposal would cost practically nothing. It may not appeal to certain politicians—for they can see no votes or jobs in it. But it would genuinely help to reduce race discrimination. And, if Communist agitators and professional do-gooders would pipe down, and give us a rest, it would make for the greater peace of the country.

We commend this whole matter to the thoughtful consideration of persons throughout the United States.

Merwin K. Hart

President
NATIONAL ECONOMIC COUNCIL, INC.